

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

BRUCE RIFKIN  
CLERK

March 7, 2008

FILED

MAR 13 2008 STEWART ST., LOBBY LEVEL  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
BY

US DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
880 FRONT STREET STE 4290  
SAN DIEGO CA 92101-8900

'08 CR 0746 JAH

RE: U.S. v. Phuong Quoc Truong  
YOUR CASE NUMBER:  
OUR CASE NUMBER: CR06-5136RBL

Dear Clerk:

Enclosed are certified copies of the following documents together with the original Consent to Transfer being sent to you pursuant to Rule 20 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure:

- Docket Sheet
- Charging Documents

Please acknowledge receipt of the above documents by returning the enclosed copy of this letter in the envelope provided.

Sincerely,

BRUCE RIFKIN, CLERK

By: Caroline M. Gonzalez  
Caroline M. Gonzalez, Deputy Clerk

Enclosures

cc: AUSA, USPTS/USPO

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
                                )  
                                Plaintiff, )  
                                )  
                                )  
                                v.                        ) CRIMINAL NO. 06-CR-05136  
                                )  
PHUONG QUOC TRUONG,     )  
a/k/a John Truong,     )  
                                )  
                                Defendant. )  
                                )

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CLERK AT SEATTLE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
DEPUTY

Consent to Transfer of Case  
for Plea and Sentence  
(Under Rule 20)

I, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, Defendant, have been informed that an indictment is pending against me in the above designated cause. I wish to plead guilty to the offense charged, to consent to the disposition of the case in the Southern District of California, in which I am present, and to waive trial in the above captioned District.

Date: 01-23-08 at \_\_\_\_\_

  
PHUONG QUOC TRUONG  
Defendant  
  
ARMON HADDAD  
Counsel for Defendant

Witness

Approved  
  
KAREN P. HEWITT  
United States Attorney  
Southern District of California

Date: 2/25/08

  
JEFFREY C. SULLIVAN  
United States Attorney  
Western District of Washington

Date: 2-28-08

LAW\_CLERK\_C

**U.S. District Court****United States District Court for the Western District of Washington (Tacoma)****CRIMINAL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 3:06-cr-05136-RBL-1****Internal Use Only**

Case title: USA v. Truong et al

Date Filed: 02/28/2006

Date Terminated: 03/03/2008

Assigned to: Hon. Ronald B. Leighton

**Defendant****Phuong Quoc Truong (1)***TERMINATED: 03/03/2008**also known as*

John Truong (1)

*TERMINATED: 03/03/2008***Pending Counts**

None

**Disposition****Highest Offense Level (Opening)**

None

**Terminated Counts**

Conspiracy 18:371

(1)

Theft of Funds From Gaming Establishment on Indian Lands

18:1167(b)&amp; 2

(2-4)

Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property 18:2314 &amp; 2

(5)

Theft of Funds from Gaming Establishment on Indian Lands 18:1167(b) &amp; 2

(6-12)

**Disposition**

Rule 20 transfer to the USDC SDCA

**Highest Offense Level (Terminated)**

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
 ATTEST: BRUCE RIFKIN  
 Clerk, U.S. District Court  
 Western District of Washington  
 By Caron M. Cooper  
 Deputy Clerk

Felony

ComplaintsDisposition

None

Plaintiff

USA

represented by **J Tate London**

US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (SEA)

700 STEWART ST

STE 5220

SEATTLE, WA 98101-1271

206-553-7970

Fax: FAX 553-2502

Email: Tate.London@usdoj.gov

*LEAD ATTORNEY**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED*

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
02/28/2006	<u>•1</u>	INDICTMENT as to Phuong Quoc Truong (1) count(s) 1, 2-4, 5, 6-12, Van Tran (2) count(s) 1, 2-4, 6-8, 12, Martin L. Aronson (3) count(s) 1, 2-4, 6-12, George Lee (4) count(s) 1, 2-4, 6-10, 12, Son Hong Johnson (5) count(s) 1, 2-4, 6-10, 12, Ha Giang (6) count(s) 1, 12, Thongsok Sovan (7) count(s) 1, 2-4, 6-12, Pheap Norng (8) count(s) 1, 2-4, 6-12. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Status Sheet) (JK, ) (Entered: 03/01/2006)
02/28/2006	<u>•2</u>	SEALED Signature Page to <u>1</u> Indictment, as to Phuong Quoc Truong, Van Tran, Martin L. Aronson, George Lee, Son Hong Johnson, Ha Giang, Thongsok Sovan, Pheap Norng. (JK, ) (Entered: 03/01/2006)
02/28/2006	<u>•3</u>	ORDER ISSUING BENCH WARRANT as to Phuong Quoc Truong by Judge James P. Donohue. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Warrant) (JK, ) (Entered: 03/01/2006)
05/24/2007	<u>•</u>	Case unsealed as to Phuong Quoc Truong, Van Tran, Martin L. Aronson, George Lee, Son Hong Johnson, Ha Giang, Thongsok Sovan, Pheap Norng Case unsealed per AUSA T. London arrests had been made. (JK, ) (Entered: 05/24/2007)
03/03/2008	<u>•62</u>	CONSENT TO TRANSFER JURISDICTION (Rule 20) to the Southern District of California Counts closed as to Phuong Quoc Truong (1) Count 1,2-4,5,6-12. (cc: PTS, Fin.) (CMG, ) (Entered: 03/07/2008)
03/07/2008	<u>•63</u>	Letter from Docket Clerk directed to the USDC SDCA regarding Rule 20 transfer as to defendant Phuong Quoc Truong (CMG, ) (Entered: 03/07/2008)

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
ATTEST: BRUCE RITKIN  
Clerk, U.S. District Court  
Western District of Washington

By Caronell Gage  
Deputy Clerk

Presented to the Court by the foreman of the  
Grand Jury in open Court, in the presence of  
the Grand Jury and FILED in The U.S.  
DISTRICT COURT at Seattle, Washington.

FEBRUARY 28, 2006  
BRUCE RITKIN, Clerk

By [Signature] Deputy

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

PHUONG QUOC TRUONG,  
a/k/a JOHN TRUONG,  
VAN TRAN,  
MARTIN L. ARONSON,  
a/k/a MARTIN SMITH,  
GEORGE LEE,  
SON HONG JOHNSON,  
HA GIANG,  
THONGSOK SOVAN, and  
PHEAP NORNG,

Defendants.

CR 06 5136 RBL

INDICTMENT



06-CR-05136-INDI

The Grand Jury charges that:

COUNT 1  
(Conspiracy)

1. Beginning in or about April 2003, and continuing up to and including approximately October 24, 2003, in the Western District of Washington and elsewhere, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG JOHNSON, HA GIANG, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did knowingly and willfully conspire, combine, confederate and agree with each other and other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to steal moncys from a gaming establishment operated by

INDICTMENT/  
TRUONG, et al. - 1

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
700 Stewart Street, Suite 5220  
Seattle, Washington 98101-1271  
(206) 533-7970

1 and for an Indian Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National  
 2 Indian Gaming Commission, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section  
 3 1167(b).

4 **I. Background**

5 At all times relevant to this Indictment:

6 2. The Emerald Queen Casino (the "EQC" or the "Casino") was a gaming  
 7 establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Tribe, a federally-recognized Indian  
 8 Tribe, pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming  
 9 Commission. The EQC's principal place of business in 2003 was a river boat and  
 10 adjacent facility located on Puyallup tribal lands near the Port of Tacoma. The Puyallup  
 11 Tribe has since relocated the EQC's principal place of business to two facilities just off  
 12 Interstate 5, one in Fife, Washington, and the other in Tacoma, Washington, within the  
 13 Western District of Washington.

14 3. In 1988, Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (the "Act"),  
 15 which established a regulatory framework for tribal gaming operations including those  
 16 conducted by the Puyallup Tribe at the EQC. One of Congress' stated public policy  
 17 purposes in passing the Act was to provide a statutory basis for the operation of gaming  
 18 by Indian tribes as a means of promoting tribal economic development, self-sufficiency,  
 19 and strong tribal governments. The Act restricts the use of net revenues from tribal  
 20 gaming to the following:

- 21       a. funding tribal government operations or programs;
- 22       b. providing for the general welfare of the Indian tribe and its  
       members;
- 23       c. promoting tribal economic development;
- 24       d. funding charitable organizations through donations; and
- 25       e. funding operations of local government agencies.

26 4. The EQC conducts what is known under the Act as Class III gaming,  
 27 which is generally known as casino-style gaming. Gaming at the EQC includes tribal

1 lottery system machines ("TLS"), which have the same appearance as slot machines, as  
 2 well as various table games, including card games such as blackjack and midi-baccarat,  
 3 which was also known at the EQC as mini-baccarat.

4       5. At the EQC, mini-baccarat is played with eight full decks of cards, which  
 5 are shuffled by a dealer and placed in a dealing shoe. Cards are dealt from the shoe by a  
 6 single dealer, and up to nine players can be seated at the table. Play begins when two  
 7 hands are dealt from the shoe— one called the "player's hand" and the other called the  
 8 "banker's hand". Only two hands are dealt regardless of the number of players at the  
 9 table. Each hand initially consists of two cards. The rules of the game determine  
 10 whether a third card is dealt to either hand. Neither the players nor the dealer has any  
 11 discretion in determining whether to hold or to deal a third card to a hand.

12       6. The first four cards are dealt from the shoe as follows: The first and third  
 13 cards are dealt to the player's hand, while the second and fourth cards are dealt to the  
 14 banker's hand. Mini-baccarat game rules dictate whether a fifth or sixth card is  
 15 necessary, and the cards are dealt to the player's hand and/or banker's hand,  
 16 respectively. All cards count as face value except tens and face cards, which have a  
 17 value of 0. For example, an ace equals 1 and a five card equals 5. If the total or "point  
 18 count" of the cards in a hand is a two-digit number, the left digit is disregarded and the  
 19 right digit constitutes the point count (for example, the point count for a hand consisting  
 20 of the following two cards, an 8 and a 6, would be 4 after dropping the left digit from the  
 21 sum total of 14).

22       7. Players bet prior to a hand being dealt and have three betting options:  
 23 Betting on the player's hand, betting on the banker's hand, or betting that the point count  
 24 of the two hands will result in a tie. All winning bets on the player's hand or banker's  
 25 hand are paid at odds of 1 to 1, while the odds on a tie bet are paid at odds of 9 to 1.  
 26 The winning hand is the one under the rules of the game that comes closer to the total  
 27 point count of 9. The Casino provides mini-baccarat scorecards for players to use. A  
 28

1 typical and legitimate player use of a scorecard is to record "runs," i.e., a series of  
 2 player's or banker's winning hands, for the player's use in making a betting decision.

3       8. All of the cards dealt in a hand of mini-baccarat are placed into the discard  
 4 rack in a specific order. The dealer slides the cards from dealer's right hand to her left,  
 5 face up with the first card on the right on the bottom and the last card on the left on the  
 6 top. The dealer then turns the cards face down and places them into the discard rack.  
 7 The same procedure is followed for each hand until all the cards are dealt from the shoe.  
 8 Consequently, knowing the order of the cards going into the discard rack allows a player  
 9 who is tracking cards to know the order that the tracked cards will come out of the shoe  
 10 if those cards are not shuffled.

11       9. Defendant PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, was a  
 12 frequent patron at the EQC beginning in or about April 2003 through October 22, 2003,  
 13 when the EQC barred him from the Casino. During this period, PHUONG QUOC  
 14 TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, played the game of mini-baccarat, winning not less  
 15 than approximately \$500,000.

16       10. Defendant VAN TRAN was a patron at the EQC in or about April and  
 17 May 2003. During this period, VAN TRAN played the game of mini-baccarat.

18       11. Defendant MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, was a  
 19 frequent patron at the EQC beginning in or about April 2003 and ended in or about  
 20 October 2003. During this period, MARTIN ARONSON played the game of mini-  
 21 baccarat.

22       12. Defendant GEORGE LEE was a patron at the EQC during the period  
 23 beginning in or about April 2003 and ending in or about October 2003. During this  
 24 period, GEORGE LEE played the game of mini-baccarat.

25       13. Defendant SON HONG JOHNSON was a frequent player at the EQC  
 26 beginning in or about April 2003 through October 2003. During this period, SON  
 27 HONG JOHNSON played the game of mini-baccarat.

1       14. Defendant HA GIANG was a patron at the EQC in or about October 2003.  
 2 During this period, HA GIANG played the game of mini-baccarat.

3       15. Defendant THONGSOK SOVAN was an EQC employee from on or about  
 4 September 6, 1999, to October 30, 2003. THONGSOK SOVAN worked as a table  
 5 games dealer, and her duties included dealing card games such as mini-baccarat.

6       16. Defendant PHEAP NORNG was an EQC employee from on or about  
 7 October 30, 2000, to October 30, 2003. PHEAP NORNG worked as a table games  
 8 dealer, and her duties included dealing card games such as mini-baccarat.

9       **II. The Purpose of the Conspiracy**

10      17. The purpose of the conspiracy was to cheat the EQC at the game of mini-  
 11 baccarat, and thereby take and carry away money from the Casino with intent to steal  
 12 the money. During the course of the conspiracy, defendants PHUONG QUOC  
 13 TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a  
 14 MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG JOHNSON, HA GIANG,  
 15 THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG, and their co-conspirators, stole in excess  
 16 of \$1,000,000 from the EQC.

17      **III. Manner and Means of the Conspiracy**

18      Defendants PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN,  
 19 MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG  
 20 JOHNSON, HA GIANG, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG, and their co-  
 21 conspirators, used the following means, among others, to effect the purpose of the  
 22 conspiracy:

23      18. PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN,  
 24 MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG  
 25 JOHNSON and HA GIANG developed and/or participated in a "false wash and shuffle"  
 26 cheating scheme, which they employed to cheat the EQC at the game of mini-baccarat.  
 27 The false wash and shuffle was carried out as follows: PHUONG QUOC TRUONG,  
 28 a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, and VAN TRAN would travel from outside the Western District

1 of Washington to Tacoma, Washington where they would recruit and pay mini-baccarat  
 2 dealers at the EQC, including but not limited to defendants THONGSOK SOVAN and  
 3 PHEAP NORNG, to participate in the cheating scheme, which would thereby enable  
 4 them to steal money from the Casino. PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 5 TRUONG, and VAN TRAN would show the recruited dealers how to manipulate the  
 6 mixing and shuffling of cards used in the game of mini-baccarat so that it would appear  
 7 that the dealer is fully and completely mixing and shuffling the cards, when, in fact, the  
 8 dealer would intentionally avoid mixing or shuffling a series of cards, the order of which  
 9 would be previously recorded by a co-conspirator player. The false wash and shuffle  
 10 cheating scheme is described more fully in the following paragraphs.

11       19. It was further part of the conspiracy that, on multiple occasions beginning  
 12 in or about April 2003 and continuing through October 2003, MARTIN L. ARONSON,  
 13 a/k/a MARTIN SMITH (the "recording player") would go to the EQC and play mini-  
 14 baccarat or observe mini-baccarat being played. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a  
 15 MARTIN SMITH would record the point count and order of a series of the cards dealt  
 16 from the shoe and placed on the gaming table. The recording player recorded the point  
 17 count and order of the cards on a scorecard provided by the Casino.

18       20. It was further part of the conspiracy that, after all the cards in a shoe were  
 19 dealt, and the shoe containing the recorded cards was placed back on the gaming table,  
 20 THONGSOK SOVAN, PHEAP NORNG or another conspirator known to the grand  
 21 jury (individually, the "conspirator dealer") would perform a false wash and shuffle of  
 22 the recorded cards. The washing of cards involves the dealer taking all eight decks of  
 23 cards, spreading them face down on the gaming table and then mixing all of the cards by  
 24 moving her hands in a circular motion. A false wash involves a conspirator dealer  
 25 taking previously recorded cards (the "slug"), spreading them directly in front of herself  
 26 and the chip tray and moving or "washing" cards over the "slug," without moving or  
 27 mixing the cards that comprise the "slug" with the other cards. A false shuffle involves  
 28

1 a conspirator dealer intentionally avoiding interlacing or shuffling the cards that  
 2 comprise the "slug," the cards the conspirator recording player had previously recorded.

3       21. It was further part of the conspiracy that once the conspirator dealer  
 4 completed the false wash and shuffle, a conspirator player would look for "indicator  
 5 cards" at the start of the slug. Once the conspirator player recognized the slug, he or she  
 6 could determine the subsequent order of cards to be dealt and played from the shoe. The  
 7 conspirator player then would use mini-baccarat rules to calculate the winner of  
 8 subsequent hands played using recorded cards. The conspirator player would somehow  
 9 signal appropriate play to other conspirator players at the table. Typically, a conspirator  
 10 player or players would win multiple hands during the course of play involving the slug  
 11 in any one shoe.

12       22. It was further part of the conspiracy that after THONGSOK SOVAN,  
 13 PHEAP NORNG, or another conspirator dealer performed a false wash and shuffle,  
 14 PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN, MARTIN L.  
 15 ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG JOHNSON and/or  
 16 HA GIANG would play mini-baccarat at the EQC when the falsely washed and shuffled  
 17 cards came back into play, thereby ensuring that they would be able to steal money from  
 18 the EQC by cheating.

19       23. It was further part of the conspiracy that, following a session of illegal  
 20 play, the conspirator players, including but not limited to PHUONG QUOC TRUONG,  
 21 a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, SON HONG JOHNSON, HA GIANG, would take their chips  
 22 from the table. Subsequently, whether later that same day or another day, they would  
 23 go, or cause someone to go, to a cage at the EQC where they would exchange chips for  
 24 currency, and they would use the stolen funds for their personal benefit.

25 **IV. Overt Acts in Furtherance of the Conspiracy**

26       In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to achieve the objects thereby, defendants  
 27 PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN, MARTIN L.  
 28 ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG JOHNSON,

1 HA GIANG, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG, and their co-conspirators,  
 2 committed and caused to be committed, in the Western District of Washington, at least  
 3 one of the following overt acts, among others:

4       24. In or about April 2003, a conspirator known to the grand jury approached  
 5 a card dealer at EQC, an individual whose initials are "CN," and invited "CN" to her  
 6 motel room in Fife. At the motel, the conspirator asked "CN" if she was interested in  
 7 making money participating in a cheating scheme involving the game of mini-baccarat.  
 8 The conspirator showed "CN" how to perform a false wash and shuffle of cards.

9       25. In or about April 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 10 TRUONG and VAN TRAN later came to "CN's" house where they showed her how to  
 11 perform a false wash and shuffle of cards and told her that they would pay her \$1,000  
 12 per day and that they expected her to complete two false wash and shuffles in a day.

13       26. On or about April 23, 2003, VAN TRAN played mini-baccarat at the EQC.  
 14 VAN TRAN approached an EQC card dealer, an individual whose initials are "RJ," and  
 15 asked "RJ" if she was interested in making extra money. VAN TRAN and "RJ" met  
 16 later that same day, first at a Denny's Restaurant, and then at a local motel, where VAN  
 17 TRAN explained to "RJ" that she could make extra money by performing a false wash  
 18 and shuffle of cards at a mini-baccarat table.

19       27. On or about April 23, 2003, VAN TRAN agreed to pay "RJ" \$3,000 if she  
 20 would travel to San Diego, California, where she would show "RJ" how to cheat at the  
 21 game of mini-baccarat through the use of a false wash and shuffle of cards.

22       28. On or about April 25, 2003, VAN TRAN purchased a round trip plane  
 23 ticket for "RJ" for travel to San Diego, California on April 28 and returning to Sea-Tac  
 24 Airport, SeaTac, Washington on April 29, 2003.

25       29. On or about April 28, 2003, "RJ" traveled to San Diego, California where  
 26 she was picked up at the airport by PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 27 TRUONG, and VAN TRAN and taken to their home. While in the home, VAN TRAN  
 28 demonstrated for "RJ," in the presence of PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN

1 TRUONG, and GEORGE LEE, the false wash and shuffle that they wanted "RJ" to  
 2 perform on a mini-baccarat table at the EQC.

3 30. On or about April 28, 2003, VAN TRAN gave "RJ" \$3,000 in cash.

4 31. On or about May 1, 2003, VAN TRAN flew from San Diego, California to  
 5 SeaTac, Washington. VAN TRAN contacted "RJ" and asked her if she was ready to  
 6 perform the false wash and shuffle of cards on a mini-baccarat table at the EQC.

7 32. Beginning on or about May 1 through May 12, 2003, PHUONG QUOC  
 8 TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, and VAN TRAN repeatedly contacted "RJ" and  
 9 requested that she perform the false wash and shuffle of cards on a mini-baccarat table  
 10 at the EQC.

11 33. On or about May 7, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 12 TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC.

13 34. On or about May 7, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 14 TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more  
 15 than \$10,000 in currency at an EQC cage.

16 35. On approximately 150 separate occasions between on or about May 29,  
 17 2003 and on or about October 25, 2003, a cell phone registered to THONGSOK  
 18 SOVAN ("THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone") was used to place calls to cell phones  
 19 registered to MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH ("MARTIN  
 20 ARONSON's cell phone") and PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG  
 21 ("PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone"), respectively, and to a residential phone line  
 22 registered to PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG ("PHUONG  
 23 TRUONG's home phone").

24 36. On approximately 75 separate occasions between on or about May 29,  
 25 2003 and on or about October 31, 2003, MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone was used to  
 26 place calls to THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone and to a cell phone registered to  
 27 PHEAP NORNG ("PHEAP NORNG's cell phone").

28

INDICTMENT/  
TRUONG, et al. - 9

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
700 Stewart Street, Suite 5230  
Seattle, Washington 98101-2771  
(206) 553-7970

1       37. On several occasions beginning in or about June 2003, and continuing  
 2 through in or about August 2003, "CN" performed a false wash and shuffle of cards on a  
 3 mini-baccarat table at the EQC.

4       38. On several occasions beginning in or about June 2003, and continuing  
 5 through in or about August 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG,  
 6 paid "CN" in cash for performing the false wash and shuffle of cards at a mini-baccarat  
 7 table at the EQC.

8       39. One of the co-conspirators known to the grand jury prepared, or caused to  
 9 be prepared, a written record of the mini-baccarat cheating team's activities at the EQC  
 10 on primarily a weekly basis for the period beginning on or about June 5, 2003 and  
 11 ending on or about August 15, 2003. For each period, the co-conspirator kept separate  
 12 pages, one with "income" and the other with "expense" written across the top. The co-  
 13 conspirator typically noted the total weekly income, daily income by each conspirator  
 14 player, and daily "payout" to individual dealers who worked (each dealer is referenced  
 15 by her first name or first initial) or otherwise participated in the cheating scheme on a  
 16 particular date. A partial summary of this record follows:

Dates	Players	Income	Dealers	Dealer Payout
6/5/2003 to 6/12/2003	various co-conspirators known to the grand jury, including PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, and SON HONG JOHNSON	\$31,800	THONGSOK SOVAN "CN"	\$1,000 x 6 days = \$6,000  \$1,000
6/13/2003 to 6/20/2003	various co-conspirators known to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, and SON HONG JOHNSON	\$18,900	THONGSOK SOVAN "CN"	\$1,000 x 4 days = \$4,000  \$1,000 x 3 days = \$3,000

1	6/21/2003 to 6/26/2003	various co-conspirators known and unknown to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH	\$37,150	THONGSOK SOVAN "CN"	\$1,000 x 3 days = \$3,000  \$1,000
4	6/27/2003 to 7/2/2003	various co-conspirators known and unknown to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, and SON HONG JOHNSON	\$17,950	THONGSOK SOVAN	\$1,000 x 2 days = \$2,000
8	7/11/2003 to 7/17/2003	various co-conspirators known to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH	\$45,600	THONGSOK SOVAN "CN"	\$1,500 x 2 days = \$3,000  \$1,000 + \$2,000 = \$3,000
11	8/4/2003 to 8/8/2003	various co-conspirators known and unknown to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, and SON HONG JOHNSON	\$35,450	THONGSOK SOVAN PHEAP NORNG "CN"	\$1,000 x 4 days = \$4,000  \$1,000 x 4 days = \$4,000  \$1,000 x 2 days = \$2,000

40. In or about July 2003, one of the co-conspirators known to the grand jury approached EQC dealer "CN" and asked her to rent a house, which was later used by co-conspirators as a base of operations. On or about July 14, 2003, "CN" rented a house located at 3815 S. Cushman Avenue, Tacoma, Washington (the "Cushman house").

41. One of the co-conspirators known to the grand jury prepared, or caused to be prepared, a written record of the mini-baccarat cheating team's activities at EQC, including an expense entry for July 14, 2003 that read "*7/14 House Rent & deposit 2400.*"

42. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written record of the mini-baccarat cheating team's activities at EQC during a one-week period beginning on August 4, 2003, and ending on August 11, 2003. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, wrote the name "Martin" and the notations "My Records" and "My Income" across the top of several of these pages. MARTIN L.

1 ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, noted the individual dealers who worked or  
 2 otherwise participated in the cheating scheme on a particular date, the number of shoes  
 3 involved, and the "income" generated by co-conspirator players on these dates, which is  
 4 summarized as follows:

Date	Dealer	No. of Shoes	Players	Total Income
8/4/2003	THONGSOK SOVAN	2	co-conspirators known to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH	\$9,000
	PHEAP NORNG	"not used"		
8/5/2003	THONGSOK SOVAN	2	co-conspirators known to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH	\$11,700
	PHEAP NORNG	1		
8/6/2003	THONGSOK SOVAN	2	co-conspirators known to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH and SON JOHNSON	\$11,450
	PHEAP NORNG	1		
8/7/2003	THONGSOK SOVAN	1	co-conspirators known to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH and SON JOHNSON	\$11,600
	"CN"	1		
	PHEAP NORNG	1		
8/8/2003	PHEAP NORNG	2	co-conspirators known to the grand jury	\$5,500
8/10/2003	"CN"	0	MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH	-\$300 ("no bets placed due to bad shuffle")
8/11/2003	THONGSOK SOVAN	2	co-conspirators known to the grand jury, including MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH and SON JOHNSON	\$6,200

43. On approximately 60 separate occasions between on or about August 5, 2003 and on or about October 25, 2003, PHEAP NORNG's cell phone was used to place calls to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone and to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone.

## **Theft of Funds on August 18 and 20, 2003**

6        44. For the period beginning on or about August 16, 2003 and ending on or  
7        about August 21, 2003, numerous calls were made from MARTIN ARONSON's cell  
8        phone to a cell phone registered to "CN" ("CN's cell phone") and to PHEAP NORNG's  
9        cell phone. In or about this same period, several calls were made from PHEAP  
10      NORNG's cell phone to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone.

11       45. On or about August 18, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
12 TRUONG, VAN TRAN, GEORGE LEE and MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN  
13 SMITH, and other co-conspirators known to the grand jury, traveled from outside the  
14 state of Washington to Tacoma, Washington.

15        46. On or about August 18, 19 and 20, 2003, TIIONGSOK SOVAN and  
16 PHEAP NORNG worked as table games dealers at the EQC.

17       47. On or about August 18, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
18       TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC, winning at least approximately \$22,500.

19       48. On or about August 18, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
20      TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more  
21      than \$10,000 in currency at an EQC cage.

22       49. On or about August 19, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
23       TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC.

24       50. On or about August 20, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
25       TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC.

51. On or about August 20, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more  
than \$10,000 in currency at an EQC cage.

52. On or about August 21, 2003, several calls were made from PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone to "CN's" cell phone. On or about that same date, a call was made from THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone.

## **Theft of Funds on September 2, 3 and 4, 2003**

53. On or about August 26, 2003, two calls were made from PIIEAP NORNG's cell phone, one to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone and one to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone.

54. On or about August 30, 2003, several calls were made by and between PHLEAP NORNG's cell phone and MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone.

55. On or about September 1, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, and SON HONG JOINSON traveled from outside the state of Washington to Tacoma, Washington.

56. MARTIN I. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written record of text messages that he sent from his phone, including the following entries dated September 1, 2003: "*John came up here today. This week should be interesting[:]*" and "*Yea, but there is more pressure when he is here. Have to do my best. I don't like the added pressure.*"

57. On or about September 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2003, PHEAP NORNG and THONGSOK SOVAN both worked as table games dealers at the EQC.

58. On or about September 1, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC.

59. One of the co-conspirators known to the grand jury prepared, or caused to be prepared, a written record of the mini-baccarat cheating team's activities at the EQC for September 1, 2003. The co-conspirator noted the income by co-conspirator player and expenses incurred, including the following: "Son - 2020" and "T - 1000 (J)." The written record also included a daily balance of the cheat team's bank roll or "B.R.," including deposit and withdrawal activity attributed to "John."

1       60. On or about September 2, 2003, two calls were made from PHEAP  
 2 NORNG's cell phone, one to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone and one to PIUJONG  
 3 TRUONG's cell phone. On or about that same day, one call was made from  
 4 THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone to PIUJONG TRUONG's cell phone, and one call  
 5 was made from MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone to "CN's" cell phone.

6       61. On or about September 2, 2003, PIUJONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 7 TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC, winning at least approximately \$14,500.

8       62. On or about September 2, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 9 TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more  
 10 than \$10,000 in currency at the EQC cage.

11       63. One of the co-conspirators known to the grand jury prepared, or caused to  
 12 be prepared, a written record of the mini-baccarat cheating team's activities at the EQC  
 13 for September 2, 2003. The co-conspirator noted the income by various co-conspirator  
 14 players, both known and unknown to the grand jury, and expenses incurred, including  
 15 the following: "Son - 3800," "Martin -- [minus] \$500" and "T - 1000 (J)."

16       64. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH prepared a written  
 17 record of text messages that he sent from his phone, including the following entries  
 18 dated September 3, 2003: (1) "*Sorry I had to go so quick. Had to talk to the crew. I will*  
 19 *call again on my way to work;*" and (2) "*I had to talk to people about work. I am sorry if*  
 20 *it seemed rude, I didn't have a choice.*"

21       65. On or about September 3, 2003, PIUJONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 22 TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC, winning at least approximately \$42,500.

23       66. On or about September 3, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 24 TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more  
 25 than \$10,000 in currency at the EQC cage.

26       67. One of the co-conspirators known to the grand jury prepared, or caused to  
 27 be prepared, a written record of the mini-baccarat cheating team's activities at the EQC  
 28

1 for September 3, 2003. The co-conspirator noted the income by various co-conspirator  
 2 players, both known and unknown to the grand jury, including the following:

3 "Martin - 1500."

4 68. On or about September 4, 2003, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN  
 5 SMITH, played mini-baccarat at the EQC and tracked the point count and order in  
 6 which cards dealt from shoes were placed on the gaming table.

7 69. On or about September 4, 2003, PHEAP NORNG performed a false wash  
 8 and shuffle of cards while working as a mini-baccarat dealer at the EQC.

9 70. On or about September 4, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 10 TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC, winning approximately \$65,500.

11 71. On or about September 5, 2003, several calls were made by and between  
 12 PHEAP NORNG's cell phone and MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone. On or about that  
 13 same day, a call was made from MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone to THONGSOK  
 14 SOVAN's cell phone.

15 72. On or about September 5, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 16 TRUONG, transported \$15,000 cash obtained in the cheating scheme at the EQC from  
 17 Tacoma, Washington to San Diego, California.

#### 18                   Theft of Funds on September 16 and 17, 2003

19 73. On or about September 13, 2003, several calls were made by and between  
 20 MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone and THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone. Several  
 21 calls were also made from MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone to "CN's" cell phone.

22 74. On or about September 15, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a  
 23 JOHN TRUONG, SON HONG JOHNSON and other co-conspirators known to the  
 24 grand jury traveled from outside the state of Washington to Tacoma, Washington.

25 75. On or about September 15, 2003, a call was made from PHEAP NORNG's  
 26 cell phone to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone.

27 76. On or about September 15, 16, 17 and 18, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN  
 28 and PHEAP NORNG worked as table games dealers at the EQC.

1       77. On or about September 15, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a  
 2 JOHN TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC.

3       78. One of the co-conspirators known to the grand jury prepared, or caused to  
 4 be prepared, a written record of the mini-baccarat cheating team's activities at the EQC  
 5 for September 15, 2003. The co-conspirator noted the income by various co-conspirator  
 6 players, both known and unknown to the grand jury, and expenses incurred, including  
 7 the following: "Son - 6400" and "T IK."

8       79. On or about September 16, 2003, several calls were made from  
 9 THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone.

10      80. On September 16, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 11 TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC, winning at least approximately \$22,900.

12      81. On or about September 16, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a  
 13 JOHN TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for  
 14 more than \$10,000 in currency at the EQC cage.

15      82. On or about September 17, 2003, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a  
 16 MARTIN SMITH, played mini-baccarat at the EQC and tracked the point count and  
 17 order in which cards dealt from the shoe were placed on the gaming table.

18      83. On or about September 17, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN performed a false  
 19 wash and shuffle of cards at one of the EQC's mini-baccarat tables.

20      84. On or about September 17, 2003, PIIEAP NORNG performed a false wash  
 21 and shuffle of cards at one of the EQC's mini-baccarat tables.

22      85. On September 17, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 23 TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC, winning approximately \$72,000.

24      86. On or about September 17, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a  
 25 JOHN TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for  
 26 more than \$10,000 in currency at an EQC cage.

27  
 28

1        87. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written  
2 record of "My Income" by date. For September 17, 2003, he wrote that he "*Received*/]  
3 \$3,000" and that his "*Expected Hold*" was \$1,000.

4           88. On or about September 18, 2003, a call was made from PHEAP NORNG's  
5 cell phone to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone.

## **Theft of Funds on September 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2003**

7       89. On or about September 21, 2003, two calls were made to PHUONG  
8 TRUONG's cell phone, one from PHEAP NORNG's cell phone and the other from  
9 THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone.

10        90. On or about September 22, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a  
11 JOHN TRUONG, SON HONG JOHNSON, and another co-conspirator known to the  
12 grand jury, traveled together from outside the state of Washington to Tacoma,  
13 Washington. On or about that same date, GEORGE LEE and MARTIN L. ARONSON,  
14 a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, traveled from outside the state of Washington to Tacoma,  
15 Washington.

16        91. On or about September 22, 2003, two calls were made from MARTIN  
17 ARONSON's cell phone to a cell phone registered to "CN" and another call was made  
18 from PHIEAP NORNG's cell phone to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone.

19 92. On or about September 22, 23 and 24, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN and  
20 PITIAP NORNG worked as table games dealers at the EQC.

21       93. On September 22, 2003, PIJUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
22       TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC.

23        94. On or about September 22, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a  
24           JOHN TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for  
25           more than \$10,000 in currency at an EQC cage.

26        95. On or about September 23, 2003, several calls were made to MARTIN  
27 ARONSON's cell phone from THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone and PHEAP

1 NORNG's cell phone, and one call was made from MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone  
 2 to THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone.

3       96. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH prepared a written  
 4 record of text messages that he sent from his phone, including the following entries  
 5 dated September 24, 2003: (1) "*I am not busy yet, but I will be soon. For about 15*  
 6 *min.;*" and (2) "*Everyone leaves tomorrow night. I have the weekend off again.*"

7       97. On September 24, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 8 TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC.

9       98. On or about September 24, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a  
 10 JOHN TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for  
 11 more than \$10,000 in currency at an EQC cage.

12       99. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written  
 13 record of text messages that he sent from his phone, including the following entry dated  
 14 September 25, 2003: "*Join[sic] is taking us out to hang out and have fun. So I can't*  
 15 *talk. I will call when I can.*"

16       100. On or about September 25, 2003, several calls were made to MARTIN  
 17 ARONSON's cell phone from THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone and PHEAP  
 18 NORNG's cell phone, and one call was made from THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone  
 19 to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone.

20       101. On or about September 25, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a  
 21 JOHN TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC.

22       102. On or about September 25, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a  
 23 JOHN TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for  
 24 more than \$10,000 in currency at the EQC cage.

25       103. On or about September 26, 2003, a call was made from THONGSOK  
 26 SOVAN's cell phone to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone.

104. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written record of text messages that he sent from his phone, including the following entry dated September 26, 2003: "*Pretty, much. George leaves tonight.*"

## **Theft of Funds on October 2 and 3, 2003**

105. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written record dated October 1, 2003 of the following text messages that he sent from his cell phone: (1) "*I am on my way to the casino now! ;)*" and (2) "*Let me gamble for a little bit. Is that ok?*"

106. On or about October 2, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, and SON HONG JOHNSON traveled from outside the state of Washington to Tacoma, Washington. On or about that same date, GEORGE LEE traveled with a co-conspirator known to the grand jury, from outside the state of Washington to Tacoma, Washington.

107. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written record dated October 2, 2003 of the following text message that he sent from his cell phone: "*Getting ready to go out. I have to get George from the airport. You cool?*"

108. On or about October 2, 2003, one call was made from PHIEAP NORNG's cell phone to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone and another to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone. On or about that same date, a call was made from MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone to "CN's" cell phone.

109. On or about October 2 and 3, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG worked as table games dealers at the FOC.

110. On or about October 2, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOTIN TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC, winning at least approximately \$19,500.

111. On or about October 2, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more than \$10,000 in currency at the EOC cage.

1 112. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written  
2 record dated October 3, 2003 of the following text message that he sent from his cell  
3 phone: "*I have't had to work this hard in a long time. And only half way done! I just*  
4 *wanna sleep.*"

5        113. On or about October 3, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
6        TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more  
7        than \$10,000 in currency at the EQC cage.

8           114. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written  
9 record of "My Income" by date. For October 3, 2003, he wrote that he "Received[d]  
10 \$2,000" and that his "*Expected Hold*" was \$1,000.

11        115. On or about October 4, 2003, two calls were made from THONGSOK  
12 SOVAN's cell phone to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone. On or about that same  
13 date, calls were made from PHEAP NORNG's cell phone to PHUONG TRUONG's cell  
14 phone and MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone.

15 116. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written  
16 record dated October 4, 2003 of the following text messages that he sent from his cell  
17 phone: (1) "*I had to drive George to the airport but I finally get to sleep now. So tired . .*  
18 *. Must close eyes . . .*" and (2) "*The whole week should be work free.*"

## Theft of Funds on October 13, 14 and 15, 2003

117. Beginning on or about October 8, 2003 and ending on or about October  
13, 2003, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH stayed at the Extended Stay  
America hotel in Fife, Washington.

23        118. On or about October 12, 2003, one call was made from PHEAP NORNG's  
24 cell phone to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone and another to MARTIN ARONSON's  
25 cell phone.

119. On or about October 13, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOIN  
TRUONG, and SON HONG JOHNSON traveled from outside the state of Washington  
to Tacoma, Washington.

1       120. On or about October 13, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP  
 2 NORNG worked as table games dealers at the EQC.

3       121. On or about October 13, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 4 TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC.

5       122. On or about October 13, 2003, SON HONG JOHNSON, cashed out  
 6 gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more than \$10,000 in  
 7 currency at an EQC cage.

8       123. On October 14, 2003, one call was made from PHEAP NORNG's cell  
 9 phone to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone, and two calls were made from  
 10 THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone to PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone.

11       124. On or about October 14, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP  
 12 NORNG worked as table games dealers at the EQC.

13       125. On or about October 14, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 14 TRUONG, played mini-baccarat at the EQC, winning approximately \$58,400.

15       126. On or about October 14, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 16 TRUONG, cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more  
 17 than \$10,000 in currency at an EQC cage.

18       127. On October 15, 2003, several calls were placed by and between MARTIN  
 19 ARONSON's cell phone and THONGSOK SOVAN's cell and PHEAP NORNG's cell  
 20 phone.

21       128. On or about October 15, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP  
 22 NORNG worked as table games dealers at the EQC.

23       129. On or about October 15, 2003, SON HONG JOHNSON played mini-  
 24 baccarat at the EQC, winning approximately \$12,800.

25       130. On or about October 15, 2003, SON HONG JOHNSON, cashed out  
 26 gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more than \$10,000 in  
 27 currency at an EQC cage.

## **Theft of Funds on October 22, 23 and 24, 2003**

131. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written record of text messages that he sent from his phone, including the following entries dated October 19, 2003: "*I said I was working. And that I am with Johns; }*" and "*But if you can't accept the fact that I will not tell you everything about my work (bcz we are not married), then tell me.*"

132. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH prepared, a written record of text messages that he received on his phone, including the following entry dated October 20, 2003 from "Girlie": "*y r u so scared to talk to me when they r around? So what? They know u have a girlfriend, I guess they also know that it's ok 2 talk t ur gf once in a while.*"

133. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared, a written record of text messages that he sent from his phone, including the following entry dated October 20, 2003: "*I am scared if I talk to you when they are around, they will figure out that you know.*"

134. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, prepared a written record of text messages that he received on his phone, including the following entry dated October 20, 2003 from "Girlie": "*I know u value ur boss highly, but he is not God. He's just ur boss.*"

135. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH prepared a written record of text messages that he received on his phone, including the following entry dated October 20, 2003 from "Girlie": "*I am not telling u 2 change ur relationship with him, I was just telling u that u also have personal things to attend to, and that u don't have to focus everything on ur work.*"

136. On or about October 21, 2003, two calls were made from THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone.

1       137. On or about October 22, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 2       TRUONG, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, SON HONG JOHNSON  
 3       and HA GIANG, traveled from outside the state of Washington to Tacoma, Washington.

4       138. On or about October 22, 2003, one call each was made from THONGSOK  
 5       SOVAN's cell phone and PHEAP NORNG's cell phone to MARTIN ARONSON's cell  
 6       phone. One call was also made from MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone to  
 7       THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone.

8       139. On or about October 22, 23 and 24, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN and  
 9       PHEAP NORNG worked as table games dealers at the EQC.

10      140. On or about October 22, 2003, SON HONG JOHNSON played  
 11       mini-baccarat at EQC, winning approximately \$9,500.

12      141. On or about October 22, 2003, SON HONG JOHNSON cashed out  
 13       gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more than \$10,000 in  
 14       currency at an EQC cage.

15      142. On or about October 23, 2003, one call was made from MARTIN  
 16       ARONSON's cell phone to PHEAP NORNG's cell phone and another call made from  
 17       THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone to MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone, and three  
 18       calls were made from THONGSOK SOVAN's cell phone to PHUONG TRUONG's cell  
 19       phone.

20      143. MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH prepared a written  
 21       record of text messages that he sent from his phone, including the following entries  
 22       dated October 23, 2003: (1) "*I had such a busy night last night. And so many things  
 23       went wrong. Oh my goodness! Tell u all about my terrible day at work when we talk;*"  
 24       and (2) "*And I was so busy I just couldn't call.*"

25      144. On or about October 23 and 24, 2003, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a  
 26       MARTIN SMITH, played mini-baccarat at the EQC and tracked the point count and  
 27       order in which cards dealt from shoes were placed on the gaming tables.

1       145. On or about October 24, 2003, PHEAP NORNG performed two false  
 2 washes and shuffle of cards while working as a mini-baccarat dealer at the EQC.

3       146. On or about October 24, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN performed two false  
 4 washes and shuffle of cards while working as a mini-baccarat dealer at the EQC.

5       147. On or about October 24, 2003, HA GIANG played mini-baccarat at the  
 6 EQC, winning at least approximately \$12,000.

7       148. On or about October 24, 2003, SON HONG JOHNSON played  
 8 mini-baccarat at the EQC, winning at least approximately \$13,500.

9       149. On or about October 24, 2003, at an EQC cage, SON HONG JOHNSON  
 10 cashed out gaming chips valued at more than \$10,000 in exchange for more than  
 11 \$10,000 in currency at an EQC cage.

12       150. On three separate occasions on or about October 24, 2003, HA GIANG  
 13 cashed out gaming chips valued at less than \$10,000.00 at an EQC cage in exchange for  
 14 less than \$10,000.00 in currency.

15       151. On October 24, 2003, several calls were placed by and between  
 16 THONGSOK SOVAN's cell and PHEAP NORNG's cell phone, respectively, and  
 17 MARTIN ARONSON's cell phone.

18       152. On or about October 24, 2003, SON HONG JOHNSON and HA GIANG  
 19 left the EQC parking lot in the same vehicle.

20       153. On October 25, 2003, several calls were placed by THONGSOK  
 21 SOVAN's cell and PHEAP NORNG's cell phone, respectively, to MARTIN  
 22 ARONSON's cell phone and PHUONG TRUONG's cell phone, respectively.

23       154. On or about October 25, 2003, SON HONG JOHNSON and HA GIANG  
 24 left the EQC parking lot in the same vehicle.

25       155. On or about October 30, 2003, THONGSOK SOVAN made the following  
 26 false statements, among others, to a Washington State Gambling Commission special  
 27 agent:

1                             (a) That she did not associate with EQC patrons outside the Casino;

2 and

3                             (b) That she had not talked with MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a  
 4 MARTIN SMITH, other than to greet him or to say goodbyc when he played at her  
 5 table.

6       156. On or about October 30, 2003, "CN" called PHUONG QUOC TRUONG,  
 7 a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, and told him that PHEAP NORNG and THONGSOK SOVAN  
 8 had been arrested. PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, in turn, told  
 9 "CN" not to talk with anybody about the mini-baccarat cheating scheme.

10      157. On or about October 31, 2003, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN  
 11 SMITH, travclcd from outside the state of Washington to Tacoma, Washington.

12      158. On or about October 31, 2003, several calls were made from MARTIN  
 13 ARONSON's cell phone to PHEAP NORNG's cell phone and to THONGSOK  
 14 SOVAN's cell phone.

15      159. On or about October 31, 2003, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN  
 16 TRUONG, spoke with "CN" by phone and asked her to retrieve records of the mini-  
 17 baccarat checmg that he believed remained in the Cushman house.

18      160. On or about October 31, 2003, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN  
 19 SMITH, called "CN" and asked her to meet him at the Cushman house. "CN" met  
 20 MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH at the Cushman house, which  
 21 MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, entered in search of records of the  
 22 mini-baccarat cheating scheme that he believed remained in the house.

23      161. On or about October 31, 2003, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN  
 24 SMITH, told "CN" to go to the offices of the Washington State Gambling Commission  
 25 and find out what she could regarding the search of the Cushman house.

26      162. Defendants PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN  
 27 TRAN, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG  
 28 JOHNSON, HA GIANG, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did, and caused

1 to be done, the acts set forth in Counts 2 through 12 of this Indictment, which are  
2 incorporated by reference and alleged as separate overt acts as if set forth in full herein.

3 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

4 **COUNT 2**  
5 **(Theft of Funds from Gaming Establishment on Indian Lands)**

6 163. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by  
reference.

7 164. On or about August 18, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District of  
Washington, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN,  
MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG  
JOHNSON, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did knowingly abstract,  
purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moneys, funds, assets and other  
property of a value in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the  
Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian  
Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming  
Commission.

16 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

17 **COUNT 3**  
18 **(Theft of Funds from Gaming Establishment on Indian Lands)**

19 165. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by  
reference.

20 166. On or about September 2, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District of  
Washington, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN,  
MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG  
JOHNSON, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did knowingly abstract,  
purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moneys, funds, assets and other  
property of a value in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the  
Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian

1 || Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming  
 2 Commission.

3 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

4 **COUNT 4**  
 5 **(Theft of Funds from Gaming Establishment on Indian Lands)**

6 167. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by  
 reference.

7 168. On or about September 4, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District of  
 Washington, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN,  
 MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG  
 JOHNSON, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did knowingly abstract,  
 purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moneys, funds, assets and other  
 property of a value in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the  
 Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian  
 Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming  
 Commission.

16 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

17 **COUNT 5**  
 18 **(Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property)**

19 169. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by  
 reference.

20 170. On or about September 5, 2003, in the Western District of Washington and  
 elsewhere, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, did unlawfully cause  
 to be transported, transmitted and transferred in interstate commerce from Tacoma,  
 Washington to San Diego, California, money stolen, converted and taken by fraud, of a  
 value of \$5,000 or more, knowing the same to have been stolen, converted and taken by  
 fraud.

21 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2314 and 2.

COUNT 6

(Theft of Funds from Gaming Establishment on Indian Lands)

171. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by  
reference.

172. On or about September 16, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District  
of Washington, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN,  
MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG  
JOHNSON, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did knowingly abstract,  
purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moneys, funds, assets and other  
property of a value in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the  
Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian  
Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming  
Commission.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

COUNT 7

(Theft of Funds from Gaming Establishment on Indian Lands)

173. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by  
reference.

174. On or about September 17, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District  
of Washington, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN,  
MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG  
JOHNSON, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did knowingly abstract,  
purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moneys, funds, assets and other  
property of a value in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the  
Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian  
Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming  
Commission.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

**COUNT 8**  
**(Theft of Funds from Gaming Establishment on Indian Lands)**

175. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by reference.

176. On or about September 24, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District of Washington, PIUJONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG JOHNSON, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did knowingly abstract, purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moneys, funds, assets and other property of a value in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

**COUNT 9**  
**(Theft of Funds from Gaming Establishment on Indian Lands)**

177. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by reference.

178. On or about September 25, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District of Washington, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG JOHNSON, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did knowingly abstract, purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moneys, funds, assets and other property of a value in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaining Commission.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

**COUNT 10**

179. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by reference.

180. On or about October 2, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District of Washington, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, SON HONG JOHNSON, GEORGE LEE, THONGSOK SOVAN and PHEAP NORNG did knowingly abstract, purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moneys, funds, assets and other property of a value in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

**COUNT 11**

181. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by reference.

182. On or about October 14, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District of Washington, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, THIONGSOK SOVAN and PIIEAP NORNG, did knowingly abstract, purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moncys, funds, asscts and other property of a value in excess of onc thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

**COUNT 12**

183. Paragraphs 1 through 162 of this Indictment are hereby incorporated by reference.

184. On or about October 24, 2003, at Tacoma, within the Western District of Washington, PHUONG QUOC TRUONG, a/k/a JOHN TRUONG, VAN TRAN, MARTIN L. ARONSON, a/k/a MARTIN SMITH, GEORGE LEE, SON HONG JOHNSON, HA GIANG, PHEAP NORNG and TIIONGSOK SOVAN, did knowingly abstract, purloin, and take and carry away with intent to steal, moneys, funds, assets and other property of a value in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) belonging to the Emerald Queen Casino, a gaming establishment operated by and for the Puyallup Indian Tribe pursuant to an ordinance or resolution approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1167(b) and 2.

A TRUE BILL: 02/28/06

DATED:

**Signature of Foreperson redacted pursuant  
to the policy of the Judicial Conference**

FOREPERSON

**JOHN MCKAY**  
**United States Attorney**

**CARL BLACKSTONE**  
**Assistant United States Attorney**

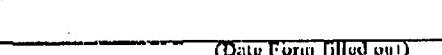
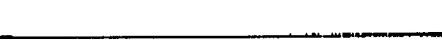
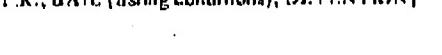
J. TATE LONDON  
Assistant United States Attorney

**DEFENDANT STATUS SHEET (One for each defendant)****I. CASE STATUS**NAME OF DEFENDANT PHUONG QUOC TRUONGUSA# 2003R01571/ MAGISTRATE'S NO. \_\_\_\_\_/ DOCKET NO. (If Superioring Indictment) CR \_\_\_\_\_**II. CUSTODIAL STATUS**HAS DEFENDANT HAD INITIAL APPEARANCE IN THIS CASE? / yes X/ no

IF YES:

/ DEFENDANT HAS BEEN RELEASED ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_\*\*\* / A DETENTION HEARING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR: \_\_\_\_\_/ A DETENTION ORDER HAS BEEN ENTERED.\*\*\* / TEMPORARY DETENTION\*\*\* / PERMANENT DETENTION/ IF THE DEFENDANT HAS HAD INITIAL APPEARANCE IN ANOTHER DISTRICT, THE ABOVE RELEASE ON CONDITIONS OR DETENTION ORDER WAS ENTERED IN THE                    DISTRICT OF                    AND THE DEFENDANT'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN THIS DISTRICT IS EXPECTED TO BE/HAS BEEN SET FOR                     
(Date)/ DEFENDANT IS IN CUSTODY ON OTHER CHARGES:/ SERVING A FEDERAL SENTENCE AT \_\_\_\_\_/ PENDING FEDERAL CHARGES IN THE                    DISTRICT OF                   / PENDING STATE CHARGES AT \_\_\_\_\_**III. ARRAIGNMENT**X/ WARRANT TO ISSUE (IF SO, PLEASE COMPLETE REVERSE)/ SUMMONS TO BE ISSUED FOR APPEARANCE ON                    (Date) CALENDAR. (DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS REQUIRED.)

DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

/ LETTER TO DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR APPEARANCE ON                    (B)**IV. CONDITIONS**X/ NOT PREVIOUSLY SET, SHOULD BE: DETAINED (e.g., P.R.; BAIL (listing conditions); DETENTION)/ PREVIOUSLY SET, SHOULD BE:/ CONTINUE CONDITIONS OF RELEASE/ CONTINUE DETENTION/ MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS (state reasons for modifying): \_\_\_\_\_HAS THE FPD represented any subject or witness in this case? / Yes / NoTHE ESTIMATED TRIAL TIME IS                    TRIAL DAYS.

(Date Form Filled Out)

(Revised June 2000)